

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 486-2113

Electronic Filing Helps Washington Win Digital State Award

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 3, 2003— The Department of Revenue's pioneering efforts to allow businesses to file and pay their state taxes online has helped the state of Washington win yet another "most digital state" award.

The Sustained Leadership Award, presented this week by the Center for Digital Government and the Progress and Freedom Foundation, honors Washington for making the most progress in serving its citizens through online programs and making government more accessible through technology.

"For the last five years we have made a concerted effort to use technology to make government more efficient and user-friendly for our citizens," Governor Gary Locke said. "This award shows we're making good progress, and we are committed to finding new ways to use technology to better serve the people of Washington."

The award is a cumulative honor, recognizing Washington for pioneering several online services that won it the national Digital State Award three times in the past five years.

Washington was the first state to enable businesses to compute, file and pay taxes over the Internet. Nearly 30,000 businesses now file their taxes electronically, and the number has been increasing by about 5 percent a month.

The latest award also recognizes Washington for being the first state to establish a secure Internet gateway to a host of government services using digital certificates and signatures.

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